

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10

RSC-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 M-03

A-01 USSS-00 SY-10 DOTE-00 FAA-00 CAB-09 COME-00

TRSE-00 SSO-00 /163 R

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8/6/73 - EXT. 21320

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 156993

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, UN

SUBJECT: UN AD HOC COMITE ON TERRORISM: STATUS OF WORK
AND FUTURE

REF: USUN 2745

1. DEPARTMENT INCLINED TO AGREE WITH DELEGATION'S VIEWS
RE BALANCE OF PROS AND CONS OF CONTINUATION OF AD HOC
COMMITTEE NEXT YEAR. WE SHARE IN PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT
FACT THAT POLITICAL PRESSURES, COMBINED WITH BADLY-DEFINED
MANDATE OF COMMITTEE, SEEM TO BE RESULTING IN GENERALLY
UNPRODUCTIVE LINE OF DISCUSSION.

2. BASIC OBJECTIVE, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, IS TO LEAVE
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WAY OPEN FOR CONTINUING EFFORT WITHIN UN FRAMEWORK TO

DEVELOP MEASURES TO DEAL WITH VARIOUS PROBLEMS COMPROMISED UNDER GENERAL TERM "TERRORISM". PRIMARY GOAL DURING 28TH UNGA IS ADOPTION OF CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS. IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, ANY OTHER STEPS WHICH CAN LEAD TO CONCRETE PROGRESS IN THIS AREA WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE.

3. WE SUSPECT THAT IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO SECURE UNGA ACTION ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF PROBLEM OF "TERRORISM" WITHOUT GOING THROUGH PROCESS OF HARD BARGAINING IN SOME SORT OF COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, WE TEND TO THINK THAT PERPETUATION OF PRESENT "TERRORISM" COMMITTEE WOULD BE

NEGATIVE FACTOR FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, SINCE THAT COMMITTEE, SO LONG AS IT EXISTS, IS LIKELY TO CONSTITUTE BURYING GROUND FOR PRACTICAL INITIATIVES IN THIS AREA RATHER THAN FORUM FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS.

4. IT SEEMS TO US THAT THERE ARE TWO OUTCOMES AT 28TH UNGA WHICH, IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING, WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. FIRST AND MORE DESIRABLE WOULD BE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COMMITTEE WITH NARROWER MANDATE WHICH WOULD NOT RAISE POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES INHERENT IN CONCEPT OF COMMITTEE ON "TERRORISM" AND WHICH WOULD MORE CLEARLY BE ORIENTED TOWARD DEVELOPING SPECIFIC MEASURES ON PROTECTION OF INNOCENT PERSONS. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT CONSIDERABLE LEGERDEMAIN WOULD BE REQUIRED TO TERMINATE ONE COMMITTEE AND CONSTITUTE ANOTHER IN THIS AREA, WE BELIEVE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT IS CONCEIVABLE IF, FOR EXAMPLE, BELGIANS DECIDE TO GO AHEAD WITH INITIATIVE ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES AS SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM. IN ANY CASE, HOWEVER, WE ASSUME THAT FOR US TO TAKE ACTIVE LEAD IN DEVELOPING NEW APPROACH AT THIS TIME WOULD BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE.

5. SECOND POSSIBILITY, WHICH IS PROBABLY MUCH MORE REALISTIC, IS THAT NO NEW COMMITTEE WOULD BE CREATED, ATTENTION WOULD BE FOCUSED ON CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS, AND INITIATIVES ON BROADER FRONT WOULD BE LARGELY RESERVED FOR FOLLOWING YEAR.

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6. IN ANY EVENT, SINCE WE DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT TERRORISM COMMITTEE IS LIKELY TO PROVE AN APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS OF THIS PROBLEM, WE CONCUR THAT ITS TERMINATION WOULD BE DESIRABLE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. WE ALSO SHARE DELEGATION'S ESTIMATE (PARA 9 REFTTEL) THAT CHANCE OF OBTAINING SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR OUR ACQUIESCENCE IN COMMITTEE'S TERMINATION IS SLIGHT.

DESPITE THEIR EARLIER SKEPTICISM ABOUT COMMITTEE, ARABS AND AFRICANS MAY NOW FEEL THEY HAVE NEW FORUM IN WHICH TO BELABOR ISRAEL, PORTUGAL, ETC., AND MAY BE ANXIOUS TO KEEP IT GOING.

7. IF IT APPEARS POSSIBLE TO TERMINATE COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT WOULD FAVOR REPORT WHICH SIMPLY REFLECTED DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PROBLEM AND CONTENTED ITSELF WITH ONE OR MORE OF RECOMMENDATIONS SET FORTH IN PARA 9 REFTEL, ESPECIALLY THAT CONTAINED PARA 9(E) SUGGESTING FURTHER UN ACTION, OR, IF NECESSARY, COMPLETELY BLAND RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH COULD WITH SOME COLORATION BE PORTRAYED AS A RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE'S MANDATE.

8. IF CONTINUATION OF COMMITTEE SEEMS UNAVOIDABLE, MAIN OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO MAKE CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM IN UNGA AS NONDISRUPTIVE AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO CONCENTRATE ATTENTION ON PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS CONVENTION. PROBABLY BEST COURSE OF ACTION IN THIS CASE WOULD BE SIMPLE RECOMMENDATION THAT IN VIEW OF COMPLEXITY OF ISSUE COMMITTEE GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO PROBLEM NEXT YEAR.

9. WE RECOGNIZE RISKS INHERENT IN INSTITUTIONALIZING THIS COMMITTEE AS FORUM IN WHICH MEASURES ON TERRORISM ARE TO BE CONSIDERED. ON OTHER HAND, IF OTHERS HAVE NOW BECOME ATTACHED TO IDEA OF COMMITTEE, WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE USE OF THIS FORUM TO CONTINUE PRESSURE FOR EFFECTIVE UN ACTION. ROGERS

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